

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 8 are pending in this Application. Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's allowance of claims 1 through 7. Accordingly, the only remaining issue pivots about the patentability of claim 8.

Claim 8 has been clarified by making it dependent upon claim 7. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Indeed, adequate descriptive support for the present Amendment should be apparent throughout the originally filed disclosure. Applicants submit that the present Amendment does not generate any new matter issue.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for lack of novelty as evidenced by Sakano.

This rejection is traversed. Indeed, this rejection has been rendered moot by making claim 8 dependent upon allowed claim 7. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for lack of novelty as evidenced by Sakano is solicited.


Applicants again acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's allowance of claims 1 through 7. Based upon the foregoing it should be apparent that the imposed rejection of claim 8 has been overcome and, hence, all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is, therefore, solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Application No.: 10/686,783

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP


Arthur J. Steiner
Registration No. 26,106

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
Phone: 202.756.8000 AJS:bjs:ntb
Facsimile: 202.756.8087
Date: January 28, 2005

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